

AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

P760112-2501

FOR RM USE ONLY

A-094

CONFIDENTIAL

TO : Department of State

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, PORS, GT

FROM : Embassy GUATEMALA

SUBJECT: Monthly Report on Political Violence and Human Rights: June, 1976

REF

SUMMARY: In a month when political tension was high due to municipal and congressional elections, incidents of probable political violence increased significantly from 24 in May to 33 in June. This is the second highest figure in 13 months. More importantly, however, the number of killings rose from 9 in May to 28 in June, the highest number in over a year, surpassing even the 19 in April, which with 49 incidents was the most violent month in over two years. Of the 28 killed 12 showed signs of having been tortured. Two incidents in which 2 persons were killed and 1 kidnapped appeared to have been "Death Squad" operations. There were also 2 kidnappings and 2 bombing incidents. **END SUMMARY.**

Activity was concentrated in three areas. Guatemala's southwest coast, where guerrillas are known to be operating, was the most active section. In the three departments of San Marcos, where the Army on June 9 found a guerrilla encampment, Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez there were 13 killings, almost half of the national total, spotlighting the growing level of violence in that area.

In Izabal 5 people were killed, 3 of whom were stood up against a wall or tree and machine-gunned to death. While the killings were clearly political, no motives are apparent.

In Guatemala City, there were 3 killings, 2 bomb attacks and 1 kidnapping. Two USAC law school students were killed on June 11 while traveling on their motorcycles. One was

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

☐ In ☐ Out

Mailed by: POL:RESyder:GFDones:mjf

Contents and Classification Approved by The Charge

Clearances:

POL-I:WETHomas

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY

DATE

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

7 OCT 1976

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

Guatemala A-094

2

working for Army intelligence and reportedly was involved in the Zimeri investigation, and the other was a medium-level PGT member. The killings could have been committed by the right as a result of the Zimeri investigations or by the PGT if they thought their member had turned informant.

B1
FD

The two bombing incidents were targeted against USAC Rector Dr. Roberto Valdeavellano and Dr. Guillermo Rojas Mazariegos, a member of the National Reconstruction Committee and director of the extension school at San Carlos. Neither principal was hurt by the bombs and there was only limited property damage - to Valdeavellano's car and to Rojas' house. (While there have been reports of threats made against members of the NRC this is the first actual attack.)

Novella Kidnapping

Two of the most disturbing cases in June also occurred in Guatemala City. At about 11 p.m. on Monday, May 31, nine armed men in brown uniforms broke into the Zone 1 home of Mario René Castellanos de León, beat him severely in the presence of his wife and daughter, and dragged him away. The family called on Director General of Police Cardona and Government Minister Vassaux, who were courteous but steadfastly denied that the government knew anything about the case. According to the family, Castellanos worked in an office called "Center for Studies of Central American Development" together with a lawyer named Jorge Lobo Dubón. Lobo has disappeared and is reportedly a fugitive, possibly outside of Guatemala.

At about the same time Castellanos disappeared, police arrested five persons, took them to a police station and questioned them, and then released all except José Fernando Lobo Dubón, a law student at Landívar University and brother of Jorge. Despite the testimony of his four friends that Lobo had been arrested, the police repeatedly denied that he was in custody or that they knew anything about the case. Numerous newspaper stories, including an editorial in La Tarde June 11 on the Castellanos incident, which it described as "the most typical example of the heights delinquency is reaching," had no effect in producing either Lobo or Castellanos. There were angry meetings of students and faculty at Landívar (a private Jesuit university) and an automobile caravan organized by Landívar students to draw attention to the case was broken up by police. On the night of July 20, seven weeks after his arrest, Lobo suddenly appeared, alive and well, at

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Guatemala A -094

3

at the home of the Salvadorean Ambassador and requested political asylum. The following day the Ambassador put him on a commercial flight to San Salvador.

B3



Teachers Protest to UN and AI

A teacher named Luis Ernesto de la Rosa Barrera was kidnapped in the village of El Rancho, El Progreso department, on June 14, and his corpse appeared the following day. The widow and the National Teachers Front (FNM) - an important non-partisan association of public school teachers - said they believed De la Rosa was killed because of his activities on behalf of a salary increase for teachers in 1973-74, which culminated in one of the few successful nationwide strikes of government employees. FNM organized a small, peaceful demonstration in Guatemala City June 25 protesting De la Rosa's death, and FNM Secretary General Edgar Augusto Ortiz announced that the organization is sending a document "on the systematic and organized repression in Guatemala" to the UN, Amnesty International, and to all the teachers' organizations of Latin America.

GOG Position on Violence

There is evidence that EGP successes in recent months have now spurred the FAR to renewed violent activity. Two of the June killings, one in Suchitepéquez and one in Escuintla, were perpetrated by the FAR and more are reportedly being planned. The renewed FAR activity may help raise the level of violence to a point where President Laugerud will feel compelled to accede to the pressure for an army and police crackdown against the left.

[Handwritten signature]

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

Guatemala A -094

4 *[Signature]*
For the present, however, the Embassy believes that Laugerud is still resisting this pressure. A government statement read over radio and television on July 8 (enclosed) demonstrated clearly the Administration's sensitivity on this question. "...The Government is trying with all legal means it can," the statement said, "to prevent and combat the criminality and the violence and does not want to resort to exceptional methods to achieve this and to be able to guarantee to the nation the security of person and property: ...Whoever believes that the Government is unaware of the cause of the increase in violence and of common and political delinquency is wrong. And whoever believes that the Government is unaware of who are responsible is also wrong. What these people pretend to ignore is that the Government respects the law, needs proof to act against those responsible, and should not act arbitrarily, influenced by general accusations or the maneuvers of political extremists. The Government has the will and the means to prevent and combat delinquency, but it must be careful not to fight one evil with a worse evil, only to satisfy the popular impatience or give the impression that it is what is wrongly called a strong government..."

Despite these sentiments Laugerud will remain under considerable rightist pressure. *[Redacted]* *[Signature]*

However, although the Government says it knows who is responsible for the violence it has thus far been unable to locate the guerrillas who have perpetrated some of the most spectacular incidents. The GOG could of course round up some urban PGT members but this would do little to hurt the guerrillas. *[Redacted]* *[Signature]*

URA
ANDREWS

Enclosure:
Guatemalan Government
Communique, July 9, 1976

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Guatemala A-1094

ENCLOSURE

4 PAGINA

LA NACION 9 de Julio de 1976

MENSAJE DEL GOBIERNO DE LA REPUBLICA

ES OBLIGACION DEL PUEBLO

Anoche fue leído por medio de la cadena nacional de radiodifusión y televisión nacionales, un mensaje del gobierno para la ciudadanía, en el cual las autoridades gubernativas confían en no tener que llegar a medidas de excepción para garantizar al pueblo la seguridad personal y de sus correspondientes bienes.

Por esa razón a lo largo del referido mensaje se solicita la más estrecha colaboración de todos los habitantes del país, para que cooperen con las respectivas autoridades a fin de tener el éxito que se desea en el combate de la delincuencia común y la violencia.

El mensaje dice textualmente así:

"El gobierno de la República ve con agrado la preocupación de distintos sectores ciudadanos, por los nuevos brotes de violencia y de delincuencia común y política, que llevan intranquilidad e inseguridad al pueblo y frenan los esfuerzos necesarios para la reconstrucción nacional.

"Es motivo de agrado que no solamente el gobierno trate de prevenir y combatir la delincuencia, ya que en repetidas oportunidades se ha dicho que ello debe ser esfuerzo y obra de todos y no sólo de las autoridades.

"Es obligación de las autoridades civiles y militares el mantener la paz, la seguridad y la tranquilidad en el país, pero es obligación del pueblo cooperar con dichas autoridades para lograr el éxito de tan difícil tarea.

"El gobierno trata por todos los medios legales a su alcance, de prevenir y combatir la criminalidad y la violencia y no desea tener que recurrir a medidas de excepción para lograrlo y poder garantizar al pueblo, la seguridad de sus personas y de sus bienes, es por ello que hace un llamamiento a todos los sectores, en especial a los sectores políticos para unidos esfuerzos y lograr la paz, la seguridad y la tranquilidad en el país.

"Quienes creen que el gobierno ignora la causa y razón del aumento de la violencia y de la delincuencia común y política, están equivocados. Y quienes creen que el gobierno ignora quienes son los responsables, también están equivocados. Lo

que pretenden ignorar esas personas, es que un gobierno respetuoso de la ley, necesita pruebas fehacientes para proceder contra los responsables y no debe actuar arbitrariamente influenciado por sindicaciones tendenciosas ni por maniobras de políticos extremistas.

"El gobierno tiene la voluntad y los medios para prevenir y combatir la delincuencia, pero debe cuidarse de no combatir un mal con otro peor solamente para satisfacer la impaciencia popular o dar la impresión de lo que equivocadamente se llama un gobierno fuerte.

"El gobierno tiene y utiliza los medios que la constitución y las leyes le proporcionan para combatir la delincuencia nacional e internacional, no cesará en sus firmes propósitos de garantizar la paz y el bienestar a toda la nación, y solamente en casos extremos, recurrirá a todos los medios a su alcance para garantizar la independencia, la soberanía y la seguridad de la nación y el respeto a las vidas y bienes de todos los habitantes del país.

"Es por ello que el gobierno hace un llamado a la cordura y al patriotismo de todos los guatemaltecos y les pide que no se dejen sorprender por maniobras de grupos extremistas que, con pretexto de combatir la violencia y la criminalidad, se proponen llevar a cabo actos que el gobierno sabe que aprovecharán para provocar desórdenes y crear víctimas inocentes, para sus aviesos fines".

DECLASIFIED

ORIGIN/ACTION

ARA

RM/R REP AF

ARA EUR FE

NEA CU INR

E PA IO

L

HNA MICE

AGR COM FRB

INT LAB TAR

TR KMB AIR

ARMY CIA NAVY

OSD USIA NSA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AIRGRAM

51-0121

FOR RM USE ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL

A-119

NO

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO Department of State
DEPT PASS: TEGUCIGALPA, MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, SAN SALVADOR,
USCINCSO

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: GT, PINS, SHUM, PORS

FROM Amembassy GUATEMALA DATE: Sep 21, 1976

SUBJECT: Monthly Report on Political Violence and Human
Rights: August, 1976

REF

SUMMARY: Incidents of probable political violence fell sharply from 40 in July to 22 in August. The EGP continued its recent relatively low level of activity, except in the Zacapa area, where a band of presumed EGP guerrillas occupied for a few hours at a time three aldeas. There were also two clashes between the Army and the EGP in El Quiché when Army patrols stopped some presumed EGP guerrillas who opened fire and fled, leaving one guerrilla and two soldiers dead. The lower level of violence this month has no effect on the geographic pattern, with all incidents occurring in the four active areas, El Quiché, Zacapa, the South Coast, and Guatemala City. END SUMMARY.

August saw a welcome drop in incidents of probable political violence from July's 18-month high of 40 down to 22. Killings were also down sharply from 23 to 12. El Quiché and the South Coast were the areas of primary activity with seven incidents each followed by Guatemala City with four and the Zacapa area with three.

El Quiché Again in the Limelight

A great deal of attention in August was focused on El Quiché, where on August 22 two clashes occurred between the Army and presumed EGP guerrillas. The first incident occurred at 2 p.m. in the municipality of Uspantán when military police accosted five men in the plaza. One of the five opened fire but was shot down while the others fled. The dead man was reportedly identified as one of the campesinos who visited

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR DEPT USE ONLY

[] In [] Out

FORM 4-72 DS-123

Prepared by POL:RESpyder:mjf

Contents and Classification Approved by: The Charge

Clearances

POL:GFJones

POL-I:WETHomas

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

Guatemala A 119

Page 2

Guatemala City last month to complain of Army harrassment of the campesinos in the area (see July Violence Report). Some hours later in the same town two military policemen stopped a Chevy van to check identity papers. While the soldiers were examining the papers the two presumed EGP guerrillas inside shot and killed them and then fled on foot. Inside the truck was found a large quantity of ammunition, rifles, grenades, EGP propaganda, tents, and \$3,000 in medicine that is believed to be the same stock that had been stolen the previous day from Abbott Laboratories.

In an unusually frank press conference a few days later, the Commander of the local army base, Colonel Oscar Sandoval, admitted that there had been several previous incidents in the Department that had not been reported in the press. On March 3 an Army sergeant was killed in a clash with the EGP. In April EGP guerrillas attacked a coffee finca guard station and killed two military policemen. On July 9 EGP guerrillas killed three military commissioners in Cotzal. Sandoval also asserted, without giving dates, that a military commissioner had been tortured and killed in Ixcán, and that in Nebaj two military commissioners had been killed when they found and began to examine an EGP fragmentation grenade that exploded. Noticeable by their absence were any claims by Sandoval of previously unreported Army successes against the EGP. Asked where the guerrillas obtained their weapons Sandoval conceded that in many cases they simply took their victims' weapons.

However, Sandoval tried to place the general picture in a more positive perspective by claiming that the Army is in control of the situation and is combatting the guerrilla threat through traditional military means and through a civic action program that brings in doctors to the isolated area. (He said nothing of campesino complaints of harrassment and kidnappings.)

EGP Ups the Ante in Zacapa

Further to the east three aldeas in Zacapa and Jalapa were taken over within a span of five days by a group of thirty men dressed in olive-green uniforms and red caps who identified themselves as guerrillas (the towns are close enough together that it is presumed the same group perpetrated each incident). They searched the homes for weapons and seized small amounts of food and clothing.

These three incidents are in sharp contrast with the continuing relatively low level of identifiable EGP-initiated violence nationwide (see July Report). The boldness of these incidents is

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

Guatemala A- 119

Page 3

reminiscent of guerrilla activities in the late 1960's before Arana so effectively weakened the guerrillas and may indicate that the guerrillas in the Zacapa area now feel strong enough to take some additional risks.

[REDACTED] B-1 EC

Two Congressional deputies and a former mayor were also involved in the August incidents. DCG Congressman Hamilton Noriega from Quiché, who has championed the cause of the campesinos against the Army, felt the problem hit closer to home when his first cousin, the treasurer of Chajul, was kidnapped on August 30 and then found alive a few days later after having been severely tortured and possibly left for dead. On the other side of the Guatemalan political spectrum MLN deputy Julio Pivaral y Pivaral, Third Secretary of Congress, had his house shot at by some men in a passing car. In addition the former PR mayor of Chinautla (Guatemala Department) was shot and killed when he went to the window of his home to see who was knocking at the door.

There was also one possible "death squad" killing (not included in the figure of 22 "political" incidents) involving a 28-year old man in Escuintla with a long police record of robbery and assault.

Two other prominent men, Dr. Carlos Enrique Ruano Herrate, Chief of the Department for Food Control of the Ministry of Health and Secretary of the Veterinary School at San Carlos, and Lic. Sergio Dávila Ramirez, Legal Advisor of the Land Transformation Institute and a member of the MLN, were killed in August but thus far there appears to be no political motives for the killings (as distinct from personal and economic motives), and therefore they were not included in the August statistics.

Castellanos Case

In the longest running public protest of its kind, the family of Mario René Castellanos (see June report) continues to run daily newspaper ads calling attention to his disappearance. Most are simply large-type banners: "President Laugerud: Mario René Castellanos de León was kidnapped 100 days ago by the plainclothes police," with the number of days growing larger each day. These ads are interspersed with more detailed ones, one of which revealed that on August 24 the family had obtained its long-sought private meeting with the President. The President reportedly promised his personal intervention to determine

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 4

Guatemala A 119

Castellanos' whereabouts. But, according to ads in subsequent days, no word has been received. On September 11, Castellanos' sister-in-law, a USG employee, was awarded a gold medal by the President in a ceremony at the National Palace for outstanding voluntary services.

CRN

ANDREWS

CONFIDENTIAL

ORIGIN ACTION			DEPARTMENT OF STATE			P760141-0257 FOR RM USE ONLY		
RM	R	REF	AF	AIRGRAM			E B-1 K	
ARA	EUR	FE		A-113			CONFIDENTIAL	
NEA	CU	NR		NO			ENCLOSURE	
E	P	IO		TO Department of State			SEP 3 10 37 AM 1976	
L	FBO	AIC		EO 11652: GDS			DATE: August 31, 1976	
AGR	COM	FRB		TAGS: GT, PINS, SHUM, PORS			JAN 1976	
INT	LAB	TAR		FROM Amembassy GUATEMALA			DATE: August 31, 1976	
TR	XMB	AIR		SUBJECT: Monthly Report on Political Violence and Human Rights: July, 1976				
ARMY	CIA	NAVY		REF:				
OSD	USIA	NSA		SUMMARY: Incidents of press-reported political violence surged sharply for the second consecutive month. Even the increase in the total number of incidents was overshadowed however by the importance of three events. First, the police raided a small EGP munitions shop, killing three guerrillas and capturing an important EGP document which indicates that the EGP is larger and better organized than previously believed. Second, resumed Army and police operations against the EGP in northern Quiche have brought renewed accusations of human rights violations. And third, Roberto "Tito" Arana, son of the ex-President, survived an attempt on his life. END SUMMARY.				
			The number of incidents of press-reported political violence rose sharply again from 33 in June to 40 in July, the second highest total in 18 months. However, the number of killings fell from 28 to 23. The geographic pattern remained unchanged. Of the 40 incidents 11 occurred on the south coast, including 4 killings each in San Marcos and Suchitepequez; 15 in Quiche, including 3 killings and 12 disappearances; 5 in the eastern departments of Zacapa and Chiquimula (all killings); and 7 in Guatemala Department (3 killings, 3 kidnappings, and 1 wounded (Arana)). The EGP claimed credit for the assassination in Escuintla of Miguel Angel Sanchez Herrador, former chief of the military commissioners in the area and responsible, says the EGP, for numerous killings. The police arrested two suspects. There were no incidents in Izabal, giving further indication that last month's 5 killings there may have been an aberration.					
FORM 62 DS-323			CONFIDENTIAL			FOR DEPT. USE ONLY		
Drafted by: POL:RE: mdf			Contents and Classification Approved by: The Charge			☐ In ☐ Out		
Clearances: POL-I:WETHomas			POL:GFJones					

DECLASSIFIED

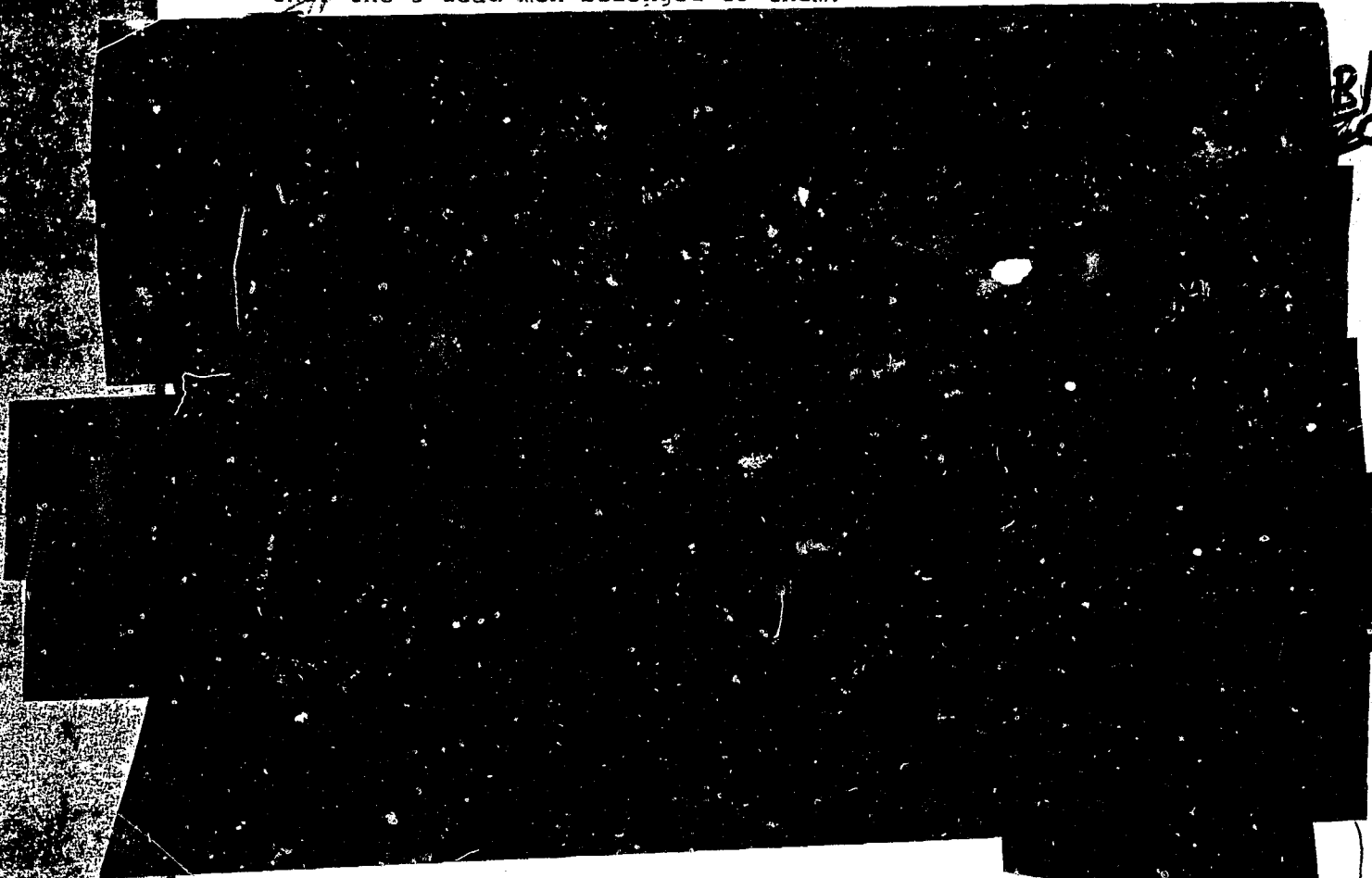
* CONFIDENTIAL

Guatemala A M3

2

EGP Explosives Factory Raided

The most spectacular incident occurred on July 27 when plain clothes detectives swooped down on a small EGP explosives "factory" in a suburb of Guatemala City, killed 3 guerrillas, and captured 2 other EGP members and a large quantity of arms and EGP documents. The police denied their participation in the attack, and after leaving the scene returned in their official capacity to "investigate" what happened and determine who was involved, but no one was buying their story and the press referred openly to police participation. A few days later the EGP sent a statement to the press acknowledging that the 3 dead men belonged to them.



CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

Guatemala A 115

3

New GOG Offensive in Quiche

August to denounce army "persecutions" against alleged guerrilla
activists. They accused the army of kidnapping campesinos, raping

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

Guatemala A 115

4

their women, and stealing food. The BCG congressman from Quiche, Hamilton Noriega, met with them and subsequently accused the detective corps of kidnapping 30 campesinos since June, including 14 in late July-early August. He gave 15 names, of which 12 are included in this month's statistics (the other 3 disappeared earlier and were reported in Guatemala A-051). Noriega added that there may have been other kidnappings in the more inaccessible northern part of Quiche that have not been reported.

The campesinos also met with new Minister of Government Donaldo Alvarez who promised to take up the incidents with Defense Minister Lucas. Confirmation of the renewed activities in the Quiche area came from resident Americans who reported new bombing activity in late July and early August in the Nebaj area and an increase in the number of campesino disappearances.

[REDACTED] in addition, three presumed guerrillas were found dead in the municipality of Cotzal with large quantities of FUR and PGT propaganda on them.

Tito Arana Shot

The third major development of the month was the attempted assassination of Roberto "Tito" Arana España, the 32-year-old son of ex-president Arana (see Guatemala 4828). To date neither the police nor the Embassy has any information on who may have perpetrated the attempt. The problem is complicated by the fact that Tito, [REDACTED] has developed a very large number of enemies, any one of whom could have done it. Tito has been involved in a large number of business activities, from slot machines to foreign car [REDACTED]

One group, however, can probably be ruled out - the LEP. They would undoubtedly have come forward immediately to claim credit.

[REDACTED] Tito went to the US to recover from his wounds but returned to Guatemala August 23 and held a press conference August 25.

Victimized Families Seek Embassy Help

The family of Mario Rene Castellanos (see June's Violence Report) has run frequent open letters to President Laugerud in the press. The letters have become more and more emphatic in their accusations that the police kidnapped Mario, but they have received no response.

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

Guatemala A-113

5

from the President

New Minister of Government

Minister of Government (Interior) Vassaux was replaced on July 30
by PID leader Donald Alvarez (see Guatemala 5465)

the change came only three days after the Government's first
successful operation against the EGP. It is doubtful that Alvarez'
appointment by itself indicates any intended shift in Administration
tactics in combating extremist violence.

Alvarez comes in at a difficult time. Political violence is
increasing and the prospect is for more not less political violence
as the maneuvering for the 1978 presidential elections begins.
About the only hopeful omen for Alvarez as he takes office is that
there were no apparent death squad killings in July.

CRA
ANDREWS

CONFIDENTIAL

ORIGIN ACTION			DEPARTMENT OF STATE			E		
A-132			AIRGRAM			760177-0026B-1 FOR DEPT USE ONLY		
ARMY	NAVY	AF	CONFIDENTIAL			ED		
ARA	EUR	FI	A-132			EXCISE		
NEA	CU	INR	TO			E		
SY	P	DO	DEPT PASS:			E		
L	FBO	ALL	EO 11652:			E		
TAGS:			GT, PINS, SHUM, PORS			E		
AGR	COM	FRH	FROM			E		
INT	LAB	TAR	SUBJECT			E		
TR	XMB	AIR	REF			E		
ARMY	CIA	NAVY	SUMMARY:			E		
OSD	USIA	NSA	INCIDENTS OF PROBABLE POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN SEPTEMBER ROSE TO THE SECOND HIGHEST TOTAL IN THE PAST 24 MONTHS. THE FOCUS OF EGP ACTIVITY SHIFTED FROM EL QUICHE TO THE SOUTH COAST WHERE TWO PLANTATIONS WERE RAIDED AND BURNED. IN THE EAST, A SMALL WAR BETWEEN THE EGP AND THE ARMY FOLLOWED CAPTURE OF AN IMPORTANT EGP OFFICIAL. THE EGP HAS ALSO BEGUN SHORT NIGHTLY BROADCASTS ON A MOBILE CLANDESTINE RADIO, EXHORTING THE PUBLIC TO FIGHT THEIR OPPRESSORS. A NEW RIGHTIST GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE FUERZAS ARMADAS DE LIBERACION NACIONAL TOOK CREDIT FOR A SHOOTING IN QUEZALTENANGO. THE GOG DECLARED THE STRENGTHENING OF THE SECURITY FORCES TO BE A MATTER OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY AND ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF SPECIALLY EQUIPPED ANTI-QUERRILLA COMMANDS TO COMBAT THE INCREASED VIOLENCE.			R/		
FOAM 4-82 DS-323			CONFIDENTIAL			FOR DEPT USE ONLY		
POL:RESnder:mjf			POL:GFJones			POL-I:WETHomas		
POL-I:WETHomas			POL-I:TChamberlin			POL-I:TChamberlin		

CONFIDENTIAL

Guatemala A-132

2

Press reported incidents of probable political violence, after falling from 40 in July to 24* in August, rose again in September to 41, including 27 killings, 6 incidents of wounding, 5 kidnappings, 2 finca raids, and one bombing. This is the second highest total in the past 24 months, exceeded only by April's 49 incidents and equalling the 41 incidents in January 1975 (see attached chart).

EGP Again Active

Almost as if the four divisions of the EGP (see July report) were taking turns at headline grabbing, last month's clashes with the Army in El Quiché gave way this month to two finca raids in Escuintla. On September 21 some 20-30 heavily armed guerrillas dressed in police uniforms occupied a sugar cane plantation. After tying up the superintendent, the guerrillas proceeded to propagandize the campesinos about capitalist exploitation while dousing the buildings with gasoline and setting them afire. After passing out some propaganda leaflets they proceeded to an adjoining finca where they repeated the procedure. No one was hurt in the incidents, although the guerrillas allegedly threatened to kill the Spanish-born finca owner. Damage was estimated at \$3,000,000. A few days later the EGP sent letters to the press acknowledging their responsibility and promising more to come.

* The August figures have been revised upward from 22 to 24.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Guatemala A-132

EGP activity on the south coast was only part of a general upsurge of violence there. Of the 41 total incidents, 23, including 14 of the 27 killings, took place in the Pacific coastal departments between San Marcos in the west and Santa Rosa in the east.

The previously reported August 23 capture of an important EGP leader, Cecilio Ramirez, in Chiquimula, led to a small war between the EGP and the Government in Zacapa and Chiquimula, where a total of 7 incidents occurred.

On September 12, the man who may have tipped off the authorities about Ramirez was kidnapped and killed, possibly by the EGP. Three days later four men were listed in the press as being wanted by the police, two of whom had been identified to the police by Ramirez as EGP members. Five days later, on September 20, another man identified by Ramirez as EGP was kidnapped. Then on September 25 the press reported that a group of 30 armed men dressed in official Guatemalan uniforms crossed into a Honduran border town identified by Ramirez as the home of some EGP members, killed a farmer, wounded his wife, and burned the farm. All together in these two departments, long a hotbed of guerrilla activity going back into the 1960's, there were three killings, one wounding, and three kidnappings. (The border crossing incident is included because of its connection with EGP activity on the Guatemalan side of the border and because there is some question on which side of the border the town really lies.)

EGP Begins "Radio Rebel"

The EGP has been engineering publicity for itself both here and in Cuba. On September 24, Prensa Latina carried a report out of San Jose, Costa Rica on the two finca burnings and on October 3 a report, also from Costa Rica, on the August encounters between the EGP and the Army. And in Guatemala there have been reports that the EGP has begun in recent days to put on the air "Radio Rebel": nightly broadcasts, apparently of only a few minutes duration, from a clandestine but powerful transmitter. The broadcasts call upon the public to "fight against the arms of exploitation". However, the GOG says it has yet to pick up any such broadcasts.

San Carlos Academic Shot

Included in the south coast statistics were two killings in Quezaltenango, plus the wounding of the Director of the Law Faculty at the University of San Carlos branch in Quezaltenango, Ricardo Lopez. The atentado against Lopez and the two other killings apparently stemmed from a recent debate attended by the

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Guatemala A-132

4

victims, in which the GOC and the extreme right came in for some heavy criticism. One of the men killed had not participated in the debate but was apparently mistaken for his brother-in-law who had. A few days after the Lopez shooting (according to the press Lopez was "saved" because the first bullet, although badly wounding him in the mouth, knocked him down and away from the other bullets), a group calling itself the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional (FALN) sent the press a statement claiming credit for the Lopez shooting and two other killings (not the two associated with the debate) in recent weeks. Because of the similarity in names between the FALN and the MLN, the MLN quickly issued a statement denying any connection between the two groups and claiming that the name of the new group was a deliberate attempt to smear the MLN. Nothing further has been heard of this group (if indeed it does exist).

Guatemala City was relatively quiet with only one kidnapping and one killing, but Jutiapa, a department not heretofore heavily involved in political violence, had four killings. While the four deaths appear to have been politically motivated, it is possible that they relate to local disputes in the department, which historically has been unsettled because of its proximity to the Salvadorean border.

While there were no documented incidents of political violence in the Izabal area in September, there were two disturbing reports. First, an American rancher from the area told the Embassy (see Memcon of October 5, 1976) of information he had received from his employees of the existence of a group of 35-45 armed men working in three sections in the Lake Izabal area. And second, in mid-September some firearms destined for the National Police were stolen out of a Puerto Barrios warehouse. Moreover, in the first five days of October there was an attack by three armed men on a police station and the burning of a finca in Morales by 12 armed men (these incidents will be included in the October figures).

GOG Announces New Countermeasures

To the increase in the level of violence in recent months, both criminal and political, and increasing popular clamor for action, the GOG responded on September 13 with a presidential decree declaring the strengthening of the security forces to be a "national emergency". The use of that phrase makes it possible for the Ministry of Government (Interior) to purchase whatever

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Guatemala A-132

5

additional equipment it needs to combat the increased violence without bothering with time-consuming competitive bidding. However, this action failed to excite anyone since more equipment by itself is unlikely to increase the efficacy of the government's anti-violence program. B1
ED

The GUG then followed this by announcing the formation of several specially equipped unified anti-guerrilla commands, composed of national police, mobile military police, and treasury agents, supported by the Army. A new headquarters was established at Tiquisate, Suchitepéquez, in the heart of the turbulent south coast (and the site of a now abandoned United Fruit Company banana plantation). B1
EC

The GUG did claim one success. They said that as a result of a police roundup in Escuintla in late September, assaults and killings of taxi drivers had stopped. B1
ED

September 28 was the anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party (the PGT) and the party celebrated by exploding at various times during the month on the south coast a number of bombs containing propaganda leaflets. Except for one bomb located outside the home of an MLN official and which caused some physical damage, these propaganda bombs are not included in the monthly statistics.

Mario Rene Castellanos - The Ordeal Continues

Meanwhile the tragic story of the Castellanos and Poggio families continued. The Castellanos family published open letters nos. 15, 16, and 17 to President Laugerud pleading for the return of Mario Rene, taken from his home by the Cuerpo de Detectives on the evening of May 31. The open letters refer to the public support

* It should be understood that "Death Squad" killings are perpetrated by various individuals who take the law into their own hands but who do not appear to be organized in any formal group that coordinates the murders.

CONFIDENTIAL

Guatemala A-132

6

the family has received from various groups at the University of San Carlos and mention the effect on Guatemala's international reputation of the Government's failure to release Castellanos. One of the open letters also cites the effect on US Congressional investigations into human rights violations as well as an Inter-American Bank decision to terminate credits to governments guilty of human rights violations. The open letters have, not surprisingly, brought anonymous threatening phone calls to the Castellanos family and they have consequently removed their children from school.

Both President Laugerud and Minister of Government Donaldo Alvarez, apparently disturbed by the continuing publicity surrounding the case and the support the family has received, announced that they had conducted investigations, including visits by Alvarez to the official GOG detention centers, all without results. This announcement only prompted the Castellanos family to publicly ask Alvarez if he had visited the "unofficial" detention centers.

EC
E
B-3
BP
In the Poggio case Jorge, Mario's father, paid a second visit to the Embassy in September to inquire whether the Embassy had learned anything of his son's whereabouts. [While the father was told no, a leader of the rightwing MLN party told the reporting officer that following his brief detention in Guatemala City in December for putting up "subversive literature", Poggio made a number of very critical speeches against the government, *DP*
12

DCG Mayor Kidnapped

Another headline-grabbing incident was the September 13 kidnapping of the DCG mayor of San Raimundo. The incident is particularly interesting because San Raimundo is one of the two municipalities where the results of the June elections were still being disputed, as a consequence of which the incumbent DCG mayor was expected to remain in office beyond his normal term (a few weeks after the

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Guatemala A-132

7

kidnapping the election results were voided and new elections scheduled). The mayor was kidnapped in Guatemala City when he voluntarily got into someone else's car, apparently that of an acquaintance, after cashing an AID loan check for \$5,060. DCG Secretary-General Vinicio Cerezo believes the kidnapping may have involved some local political dispute in San Raimundo.

And finally, DCG leader Rene de Leon Schlotter directed a letter to the Guatemalan Congress in which he requested the Congress to ask the executive branch to sign two UN conventions, one dealing with economic, social and cultural rights and the other civil and political rights, as well as an inter-American convention on human rights. The text of the De Leon letter is enclosed.

GRA
BOSTER

Enclosures:

Clippings from October 27 and 28, 1976,
issues of El Gráfico

Chart

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

Guatemala A-132

LIBRES OPINIONES

**Petición para que Guatemala
ratifique los Pactos de
derechos humanos**

RENE DE LEON SCHLOTTER, en su calidad de ciudadano, se dirige al Congreso de la República con las siguientes exposiciones; solicitando al final de las mismas que Guatemala ratifique los PACTOS INTERNACIONALES.

- II PARTE - Y FINAL

La inútil y cruenta represión en el norte de El Quiché y de Huehuetenango que ha afectado y sigue afectando a pobres y honestos hogares campesinos es otro caso de violencia política, ante la cual nuestro pueblo no puede permanecer indiferente. Se afirma, para explicar estas acciones, que existen movimientos políticos de carácter subversivo. De ser cierta su existencia, el gobierno tiene en sus manos, para combatirlos, todos los elementos que le dan las leyes. Lo inadmisible es que la población civil indefensa sea objeto de secuestros, desapariciones y muerte, a manos de la autoridad. Como inadmisibles es que se tilden de subversivas acciones de tipo social emprendidas pacíficamente por quienes sufren de las consecuencias económico-sociales a que me referí antes y están ejerciendo en justicia, uno de los derechos sociales reconocidos universalmente. Hacer a estas personas víctimas de una represión, además de una flagrante injusticia social, se convierte en crimen político.

También es violencia política, por última, los secuestros y desapariciones de personas, por parte de autoridades policíacas, sin mediar orden de arresto ni proceso alguno, por simples sospechas e incluso por equivocación, como en el caso del señor Rivel Castellanos de León.

Tiempo es ya que la situación de violencia termine en el país y de que el gobierno de la República, el actual como todos los que vendrán en el futuro, acepten el compromiso internacional y nacional de respetar los derechos de los guatemaltecos y de hacer que los mismos se respeten por todos y para todos. Por ello es que hago la presente gestión ante el honorable Congreso de la República.

PETICION:

Por las razones expuestas, al honorable Congreso de la República, PIDO:

1. Que, en punto resolutivo, pida al Ejecutivo que, en aras de la paz social que quiere todo el pueblo y para hacer recuperar a nuestro país la imagen de nación civilizada, mande firmar por sus respectivos representantes, los pactos internacionales de los Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales y de los Derechos Civiles y Políticos como el Protocolo Facultativo.
2. Que, una vez firmados dichos compromisos internacionales, el Congreso de la República los RATIFIQUE, así como la Convención Americana sobre Derechos Humanos para que puedan ser de vigencia obligatoria para el actual, como para todos los gobiernos futuros.

Guatemala, 13 de octubre de 1976

RENE DE LEON SCHLOTTER

El Gráfico, 28 de octubre de 1976

UNCLASSIFIED

LIBRES OPINIONES

Petición para que Guatemala ratifique los pactos de derechos humanos

PRIMERA PARTE

RENÉ DE LEÓN SCHLOTTER, en su calidad de ciudadano, se dirige al Congreso de la República con las siguientes exposiciones, solicitando al final de las mismas que Guatemala ratifique los PACTOS INTERNACIONALES.

I. LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS. UNA PREOCUPACION UNIVERSAL

La historia moderna se ha venido desarrollando en gran parte, y torno a la búsqueda de una aceptación universal de los DERECHOS FUNDAMENTALES DE LA PERSONA, y sobre todo al constatación de asegurar su observancia y su respeto. Especialmente después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, en el transcurso de la cual muchos crímenes fueron cometidos, con la finalidad de suprimir la libertad de los pueblos, una de las principales finalidades de las NACIONES UNIDAS, fue la de definir estos derechos que no nacieron del hecho, sino que son inherentes a la condición humana, sino que tienen como fundamento los atributos de la persona humana, la de identificarlos y la de garantizar su pleno goce para todos los seres humanos.

LA CARTA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS "reafirma la fe en los derechos fundamentales del hombre y en la dignidad y el valor de la persona humana". Las naciones signatarias se comprometieron a respetar "las obligaciones emanadas de los tratados y otras fuentes de derecho internacional", entre las cuales tiene especial significación la de garantizar aquellos derechos, a través de "promoción del progreso social y la elevación del nivel de vida dentro de un concepto más amplio de la libertad".

Tres años después, el 10 de diciembre de 1948, la asamblea general de este alto organismo internacional proclamó la DECLARACION UNIVERSAL DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS que consagra fundamentalmente el derecho a la vida, la libertad, seguridad y la integridad de la persona, el derecho a la igualdad ante la ley, el derecho de libre investigación, opinión, expresión, difusión, el derecho de justicia, el derecho de protección contra detención arbitraria, el derecho a proceso regular, entre otros más, carácter cívico, político, económico, social y cultural.

Este mismo año, en abril de 1948, la novena conferencia internacional americana celebrada en Bogotá, aprueba la DECLARACION AMERICANA DE LOS DERECHOS Y DEBERES DEL HOMBRE, que consagra los mismos derechos contemplados en la Declaración universal adicionándoles con el derecho de asilo, larga tradición continental latinoamericana.

INTERNACIONAL

Ford ataca a la doctrina sobre política

■ LO ACUSA DE FAVORECER LA P PODRIA CONDUCIR A "IMPORTA

WASHINGTON, 26 octubre (EFE).— El presidente norteamericano Gerald Ford lanzó hoy una nueva ofensiva electoral con un duro ataque a las tesis "potencialmente peligrosas" de Jimmy Carter en política exterior.

Ford acusó al candidato presidencial demócrata de favorecer una política aislacionista que podría conducir a "importantes crisis internacionales".

En un discurso pronunciado en Pittsburgh, Ford se centró sobre todo en la doctrina no

intervencionista rival en el caso de invasión militar a Yugoslavia.

Ford dijo que las afirmaciones de invitación a la paz rompe la doctrina política norteamericana y "significativo" de "Comunicados como aprendimos años, en vez de se."

En un discurso pronunciado en Pittsburgh, Ford se centró sobre todo en la doctrina no

Carter dijo que el debate entre los que si es elegida, enviaría tropas a caso de una invasión soviética.

En una entrevista Carter mantuvo afirmaciones y con Ford recordando presidente se optó.

LA SITUACION

Nacionalis en un pur

GINEBRA. (AFP).— Naciones Unidas gobierno blanco

Cambios en el comité central del P.C. soviético

MOSCU, octubre 26 (EFE).— El pleno del Comité central del Partido Comunista Soviético, que finalizó hoy sus reuniones, dispuso ciertos cambios tanto en las directrices políticas como en los cargos dirigentes.

Los nuevos matices de la política soviética —siempre dentro de una continuidad— habían sido expuestos por el máximo dirigente soviético, Leonid Brezhnev, en su discurso del lunes y han sido aprobados hoy

